

January 2013

Happy New Year everybody! I can't believe we're already in 2013. Another year goes by and I'm really excited about 2013 and all the new material we'll be bringing you to help you improve your English. So thank you very much for downloading this *Mansión Inglés* podcast. This is podcast number 57 recorded for January 2013.

Este mes, en el nivel básico vamos a practicar las preguntas con la forma ing del verbo, y también un poco de vocabulario de las tiendas - Shops. En el nivel intermedio practicamos confusing words - algunas palabras que se puede confundir en inglés and also there are some sentence transformations of the type commonly found in the Cambridge FCE exam.

There are some more idioms to study in the advanced section, and there's business vocabulary as usual, and of course many more ideas and resources to help you improve your English and take it to the next level.

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Ok so, let's begin then as usual with **el nivel básico**. *En el primer ejercicio del nivel básico, tenias que completar algunas frases con el verbo en su forma de gerundio - ...ing. Escucha las frases y repítelas.*

Escucha: Do you like **studying** at night? *Repite:* at night - studying - studying at night - Do you like? - Do you like studying at night?

Escucha: Do you like **driving** at night? *Repite:* driving - driving at night - Do you like? - Do you like driving at night?

Escucha: Do you like **sunbathing**? *Repite:* sunbathing - Do you like? - Do you like sunbathing?

Escucha: Do you like **watching** TV in bed? *Repite:* in bed - watching TV - watching TV in bed - Do you like? - Do you like watching TV in bed?

Escucha: Do you like **going** to bars? *Repite:* bars - going to - going to bars - Do you like? - Do you like going to bars?

Escucha: What do you like **doing** at the weekend? *Repite:* weekend - at the weekend - doing at the weekend - What do you like? - What do you like doing at the weekend?

Escucha: Do you like **travelling** by plane? *Repite:* by plane - travelling by plane - Do you like? - Do you like travelling by plane?

Escucha: Do you like **buying** clothes? *Repite:* clothes - buying clothes - Do you like? - Do you like buying clothes?

Escucha: Do you like **working** with a computer? *Repite:* computer - with a - with a computer - working with a computer - Do you like? - Do you like working with a computer?

Escucha: Do you like **doing** housework? *Repite:* housework - doing housework - Do you like? - Do you like doing housework?

Very good!

Luego hemos practicado algunas tiendas. ¿Cómo se dice 'tienda' en inglés? - shop - repite - shop.

Escucha las tiendas en español y intenta decir el inglés antes que yo. Luego, repite la palabra en inglés para practicar la pronunciación.

panadería - baker's

supermercado - supermarket

zapatería - shoe shop

optica - optician's

frutería - fruit shop

peluquería - hairdresser's

librería - book shop

centro comercial - shopping centre (UK) / shopping mall (US)

farmacia - chemist's (UK) / drugstore (US)

carnicería - butcher's

Very good! - ¡Muy bien!

Ok, moving on to the **intermediate section**, we had the following confusing words:

insist persuade advice advise make suggest

Listen to the sentences and repeat them.

I **suggest** buying a new computer. suggest is followed by a gerund - I suggest looking, They suggested renting a car etc.

Listen: I **suggest** buying a new computer. Repeat: I **suggest** buying a new computer.

She **insists** on sitting in the front row. *Row es fila* - repeat: row - in the front row (*en la primera fila*) She always insists on sitting in the front row. *Fijate en la preposición on*. To insist on doing something. Listen: She **insists** on sitting in the front row.

Repeat: She **insists** on sitting in the front row.

He didn't want to go, but I managed to **persuade** him. You persuade someone **to do** something. Listen: I managed to persuade him to go. Repeat: I managed to persuade him to go.

If you take my **advice**, you'll go and see a doctor. Advice (*consejo*) is something you take and you give. You give someone advice and you take advice **from** someone.

Advice, with a 'c', is the noun. The verb is to advise, with an 's'.

Listen: advise - Listen: He advised me to wait. Repeat: He advised me to wait. Listen: We **advise** customers to check their change. Repeat: We **advise** customers to check their change.

Advice, with a 'c' is an uncountable noun. I'll give you **some** advice, or I'll give you **a piece of** advice. *No se dice Xan adviceX*. Listen: Take my advice, go and see a doctor. Repeat: Take my advice, go and see a doctor.

I can't **make** you help me, but I would be very grateful if you did. To make someone do something means almost to force them to do it (*forzar*). Dad made me clean his car. Mum made me do my homework. You can't make me do it! Notice that we say make someone do something. *No se dice* Xmake someone to do something.X Listen: I can't **make** you help me Repeat: I can't **make** you help me.

Moving on to the next exercise in the intermediate section, we studied sentence transformations of the kind found in the Cambridge FCE exam. If you're studying for this exam. you can find more practice on our website mansioningles.com in the First Certificate section.

Listen and repeat the sentences to practise pronunciation:

He **suggested going to** the cinema.

If **I were you I would** talk to my parents.

He didn't **have the strength to** lift the desk.

La Mansión del Inglés **was set up in** 2001.

Julia **is really keen on** Pepito.

The **last time I wrote to** Diana was before she left for Argentina.

They put **me in charge of** research and development.

My parents really **had a good time** in Ireland.

The new hospital **will be opened by the** Prime Minister.

Excellent! - Well done!

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There were more idioms this month in the **advanced section**. Let's see if you can remember the idioms if I say the Spanish equivalent. For example, what was *Quien mala cama hace, en ella se yace / El que hace la paga?* *En inglés* it's; "You've made your bed, now lie in it!" In other words, you've created this situation for yourself, now you have to deal with it - you must deal with the consequences of your actions. - "You've made your bed, now lie in it!"

What about: *Aunque la mona se vista de seda, mona se queda?* - "You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear." - a sow - S-O-W - *es una cerda* - a female pig. Repeat: sow - "You can't make a silk purse (*un monedero de seda*) out of a sow's ear."

The next idiom was: *A la ocasion la pintan calva.* - In English it's: "You have to strike while the iron is hot." - to strike means to hit. - "You have to strike while the iron is hot."

What about, *No hay mas cera que la que arde.* - "What you see is what you get."

And the next one was, *El tiempo lo cura todo.* - Do you remember? "Time heals all wounds." wound is *herida* and to heal is *curar*, so it's quite similar to the Spanish idiom. "Time heals all wounds."

And lastly, we had *Dime con quien andas, y te dire quien eres.* in English it's, "You can judge a man by the company he keeps." Ah yes, that's very true. Show me your friends and I'll know who you are! - "You can judge a man by the company he keeps."

Listen to the idioms again and repeat them:

- "You've made your bed, now lie in it!"
- "You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear."
- "You have to strike while the iron is hot."
- "Time heals all wounds."
- "What you see is what you get."

- "You can judge a man by the company he keeps."

Also in the advanced section, we had a multiple meaning words exercise. The first word with a multiple meaning was flag. You can **flag someone down**, which means to signal them to stop. Repeat: to flag someone down - the police flagged me down. When someone important dies, it's customary to **fly a flag at half mast**. mast is *mástil* in Spanish, so the flag is halfway up the *mástil*, the mast. Another meaning of flag, when flag is a verb is *desfallacer*, *flaquear* or *decaer*. **Their strength flagged** - *Les fallaron* or *les flaquearon las fuerzas*. She began to flag at the end of the race.

Mean was the next word. Mean can mean the opposite of generous. To be **mean with money**, *tacaño*, She's so mean she never buys me lunch!

Mean also means *significar*. **What does this word mean?**

Mean can also mean unkind or nasty - *malo* - It was really mean of you - *Fue una maldad de tu parte*. - **You were really mean to me** - *Me trataste muy mal*.

Stall was the next word - S-T-A-L-L. A **stall in a market** is *un puesto en un mercado* - a market stall. As a verb, **to stall for time** means to delay. "Stop stalling - *no andes con rodeos or con evasivas*.

an engine can stall - *parar* or *ahogar* - My car stalled this morning on the way to work. In business, you can stall negotiations. *paralizar* - They want to try and stall the proceedings - *Quieren dilatar el proceso*. - **Try and stall her** - *trata de entretenerla*.

Seal is *una foca*, but it also means *sello* and *cierre hermético* - He gave the plan **his seal of approval** - *dio su aprobación al plan*. The phrasal verb to seal off means *acordonar o cerrar* - **The police sealed off the area** because of a bomb scare.

Spare can mean not in use (*de más*) - Have you got a **spare** umbrella you could lend me? - *¿Tienes un paraguas de más que me puedas prestar?*

Have you got any spare paper - *¿Tienes un poco de papel que no te haga falta?*

As a verb, it means to do without; Can you **spare** your dictionary for a moment? - *¿Me permites el diccionario un momento, si no lo necesitas?* - Can you **spare** your dictionary for a moment?

If you can spare the time - *si tienes or dispones de tiempo*. Please help me, if you can spare the time.

To spare can also mean to give - **to spare (sb) sth** - can you spare me a pound? - *¿Tienes una libra que me prestes?*

Can you spare me a few minutes? - *¿Tienes unos minutos?* - Can you spare me a few minutes?

In the **Business English** section we looked at some more business English vocabulary. To **attend** a meeting means to be present at a meeting, in Spanish *asistir* - Do I have to attend the meeting?

Repeat: Do I have to attend the meeting?

The verb to **ensure** means *asegurar* o *garantizar*. They ensured that everyone was invited. - *Aseguraban que todos habían sido invitados*. Repeat: to ensure - They ensured that everyone was invited.

Drill means *taladro* the verb to drill is *taladrar*, but a fire drill *es un simulacro de incendio*. The practice of procedure in case of a fire.

Repeat: **Fire drill** - Yesterday, we had a fire drill at work.

To **follow up** means *poner en práctica*. Repeat: to follow up - Please follow up the phone call with an email. - I've been told I have to make a follow-up appointment with the doctor. - *Me dijeron que tengo que hacer la próxima cita con el doctor*.

Well that's all we have time for on this podcast, but don't worry, we'll be back with you next month with another **follow-up** podcast from our monthly newsletter, our *cuaderno de inglés mensual*.

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mansionteachers@yahoo.es. You can also follow us on Twitter. Our Twitter name is MansionTwit.

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Until next month then, take care, keep practising and taking your English to the next level! Happy New Year and bye for now!

*The music in this month's podcast is by **Revolution Void**, the album is *The Politics of Desire* and the track is called *Outer Orbit*.*